



File Code: 1950; 2800; 1560

Date: January 31, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed" (40 CFR § 1501.7). Scoping is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an EA or an EIS (36 CFR 220.46(1)). I request your input on the Caddo-Womble Ranger District's Crystal Farm Bill Project described below.

The Forest Service proposes to promote resiliency to insect and disease infestations through the implementation of commercial thinning harvest on approximately 500 acres of loblolly pine, shortleaf pine, and mixed pine-oak stands in Compartments 41, 1653, 1656, 1657, 1666, 1673, 1682 and 1683 (see attached map). Design criteria would include maximizing the retention of old growth and large trees as appropriate for the forest type; retaining a diverse hardwood component; minimizing temporary road construction and decommissioning within three years of project completion.

These stands are within designated areas of emphasis for increasing resilience to insect infestation and diseases through section 602 of title VI of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003(16 U.S.C.6591 et seq.). Section 602 was created by an amendment to HFRA in the Farm Bill of 2014.

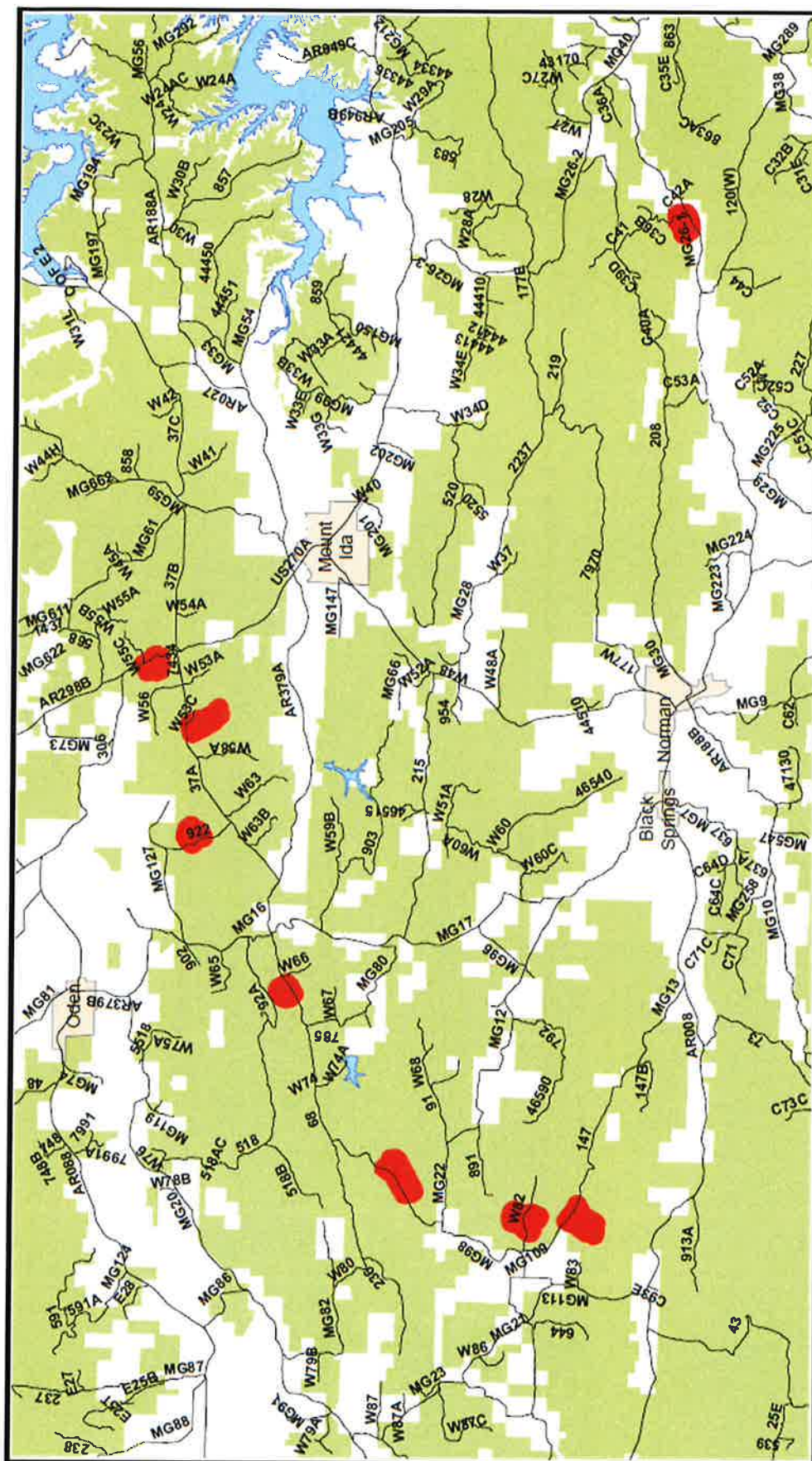
Unless scoping identifies extraordinary circumstances, this project is within a category of actions that is excluded from documentation in an EA or an EIS; only a decision will be documented. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Chip Stokes by phone at (870) 867-2101, by email at chip.stokes@usda.gov, or address written comments to the District Ranger at the address listed above. Your comments would be most helpful if received by **March 2, 2020**.

Sincerely,

SHALONDA L. GUY
District Ranger

Enclosure





Sheet 1 of 1

The **First Source** lists the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product summaries (maps) may be an excellent source of offering accurate information on certain topics, based on field observation, and more data will be being created or revised, etc. Using GIS data for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield results on the data that are not what the user needs. The **First Source** lists the data source and reserves the right to not indicate, update, modify, or replace GIS products with new information. Distribution of a road, rail, or water motor vehicle use by a particular state or country (e.g., U.S. DOT 2015.1) is not representative of the nation. It is the responsibility of the user to acquire the data and use it for the purpose for which it was created. Product use may vary. For example, for the motor vehicle use of a road, rail, or water 2015.1, for the purpose of analyzing the problem of GIS data, the purpose of

